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Book Reviews

ARGUMENTS AND SPEECHES OF WILLIAM MAXWELL EVARTS, Edited, with an Introduction, by his son, Sherman Evarts. The MacMillan Company, New York, 1919, 3 vols. pp. xxv, 722; vii, 647; vii, 461.

This well-printed collection indicates the life of one of the notable lawyers of the last century, and is devoted practically entirely to its public aspects. Grouped under three heads, the work deals with, first, professional arguments, which fill the first and more than one-half of the second volume; second, political and patriotic speeches and writings, which complete the second volume; and, third, commemorative addresses and miscellaneous speeches on occasions of almost every sort. It closes with a brief chronological summary of Evarts' life.

In the introduction the son gives a modest account in short compass of his father's career, but in what follows Mr. Evarts himself speaks, and after reading the volumes one feels a glow of professional admiration, for in these writings is the history of momentous times. The professional arguments show that Evarts touched most of the main issues of those times and touched them with a formative hand. The lighter speeches show him to have been a genial wit and a lovable companion, as well as a master practitioner of the law.

For the lawyer the chief interest no doubt will lie in the professional arguments. They cover the slavery question in the Lemmon case; the Confederacy's status in the case of the Savannah Privateers, and the Prize Cases; international principles, in the Alabama Claims and the Springbok case—whose ghost walked again in the late world war on the question of continuous voyages. They touch also the great post-war political questions in the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson and the disputed presidential election case of 1877. Beside these public issues they include the Legal Tender Cases and the once-famous Tilton-Beecher litigation. In all Mr. Evarts reveals the splendidly equipped intellect, drawing upon the armories of history, of literature, of the Bible and of a full and active life in the profession. To select merely one instance of his outlook, his opening in behalf of the government in the case of the Savannah Privateers is quoted:

"A trial in a Court of Justice is a trial of many things besides the prisoners at the bar. It is a trial of the strength of the laws, of the power of the Government, of the duty of the citizen, of the fidelity to conscience and the intelligence of the Jury. It is a trial of those great principles of faith, of duty, of law, of civil society, that distinguish the condition of civilization from that of barbarism."

words prophetic of the types of cases which today resound in our courts.

The third volume, dealing with Mr. Evarts' miscellaneous and

occasional speeches, includes a number of his after-dinner responses. In his day he was one of the princes of this difficult art and his remarks even now have charm and grace, and are worth reading for their own sakes.

Each volume shows a representation of Mr. Evarts, the last a bust by Augustus Saint-Gaudens. Particularly striking is the portrait by William Morris Hunt, found in the second volume. The intellect behind so eagle-like a face could scarcely fail to be of the first order. Such a man's own memoirs, done in the English or continental style, would be the best of memorials and the finest of informal reading on the history of his time. In their regretted absence the work under discussion was worth doing and has been well done.

G. H. Robinson.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW AND PRACTICE OF RECEIVERS. By Ralph E. Clark. The W. H. Anderson Company, Cincinnati. 2 vols. pp. 2176.

This work should commend itself to the practicing lawyer or other person who may be called upon to investigate or administer the rules and procedure governing receivers. Although the work is published in two large volumes the author has carefully divided the subject in a practical and orderly way, thereby making his subject matter readily accessible. Volume I deals with the rules of substantive law governing receivers as those rules have been developed by the courts beginning with the early English equity cases. Quotations and extracts from modern American and English decisions are used freely by the author in the text of this volume. The second volume contains a review of the statutory law of receivers, found in the Acts of Congress and Parliament, and the legislatures of our states. These statutory rules and regulations cover both substantive and procedural matters, the latter being discussed in somewhat more detail than the former. In Chapter XXXV the author has grouped the citations of various state statutes covering the same general subjects giving the basis for quick reference and comparison. There is also an interesting chapter entitled Trading with the Enemy and Custodians of Alien Property.

Volume II contains approximately two hundred forms covering the various phases of administration and procedure in receivership matters. The author has undoubtedly succeeded in producing a work which is useful and practical.

M. C. Lynch.

HANDBOOK ON THE LAW OF EVIDENCE. By Charles Frederic Chamberlayne. Edited by Arthur W. Blakemore and Dewitt C. Moore. Matthew Bender & Company, Albany, N. Y., 1919. pp. xxxiv, 1024.

As stated in the preface: "This Handbook on the Law of Evidence is designed to present to the Bench and the Bar in compact form the important rules and principles of evidence as applied in both civil and criminal trials and proceedings, with a treatment in